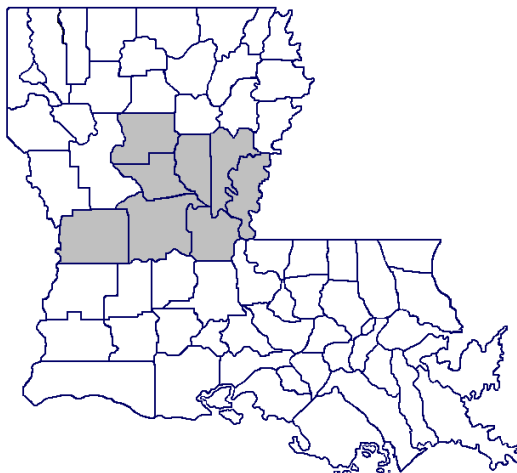


**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 6
FOURTH QUARTER 2002
COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES**

Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant
LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 6 during fourth quarter 2002 was 98,193, a decrease of 0.3% from the third quarter 2002, and a decrease of 0.3% from the same period in 2001. Employment increased in five of the 20 NAICS sectors from the third quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 6.5% was in educational services.

Average quarterly employment data for fourth quarter 2002, third quarter 2002, fourth quarter 2001, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 56. Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 6 with 19,986 employees, or 20.4% of total employment. Rapides was the leading parish with 55,564 employees, or 56.6% of total employment.

Total wages increased 2.0% from the same period in 2001, and increased 9.5% from the third quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$516.22. Rapides parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$560.99.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 6 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 6" beginning on page 59.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Avoyelles	\$ 408.02
Catahoula	388.61
Concordia	436.46
Grant	525.64
LaSalle	443.69
Rapides	560.99
Vernon	505.39
Winn	472.22

The number of reporting units in RLMA 6 for fourth quarter 2002 was 6,554.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 6
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

